

**Remarks by USAID/Namibia Director, Gary Newton
at the Launch of KAYEC Technical Publications
Wednesday November 9, 2005
11:00 - 13:30
KAYEC Skills Training Centre
City and Kampala Streets
Wanaheda, Windhoek**

- Right Honorable Prime Minister Nahas Angula
- Honorable Minister Nangolo Mbumba
- Chairperson of KAYEC's Board of Trustees, Rev. Shihala Hamupembe
- Rev. Mike Yates, Director of KAYEC
- KAYEC's Corporate Sponsors:
 - Mr James Hill, CEO Bank Windhoek
 - Ms Beverley Gawanas, Holcim Cement
- Olof Palme SS Choir and the Gospel Group
- Ladies and Gentleman; and,
- Last but not least, and most importantly, the Youth with us here today.

I am very pleased to be here today representing US AID.

May I begin by expressing our congratulations to the KAYEC Board, Director, Staff and Volunteers.

Few things could be as important as the work you are doing here in Katatura, and in the North:

- You're offering Namibia's energetic youth the opportunity to learn, and practice, and profit from a trade;
- You're equipping youth, many of whom are out-of-school and out-of-work, with a practical education that will lead to meaningful and dignified employment;
- You're helping to align Namibia's education system with the needs of the economy by producing certificate holders with skills that are in demand;
- You're helping to build and maintain this great young nation by strengthening the national workforce with skilled plumbers, woodworkers, metalworkers, bricklayers and computer technicians;
- and, you're improving public and civic health by endowing craftsmen and women with leadership and life-skills and HIV/AIDS awareness.

US AID is proud to be associated with KAYEC.

US AID gave \$300,000 U.S. dollars *from the American People* to KAYEC -- that's approximately N\$2 million Namibian dollars -- to enable vocational training to be expanded and offered to young people in the North; and we provided the financial support to produce the set of training manuals that are officially being "launched" today.

Our support to KAYEC is in many ways representative of the broader US AID bilateral assistance program in Namibia:

- US AID is helping create jobs in Namibia by supporting the development of Small and Medium-sized enterprises and Regional Trade. Over 700 jobs have been added in the SME sector and another 650 jobs have been created or maintained under the Regional Trade program.
- US AID is supporting efforts to improve rural livelihoods by assisting Namibia's conservancies to manage their natural resources prudently and profitably. Over 550 full-time jobs and almost 3000 part-time jobs have been created to date on the conservancies.
- US AID is helping Namibia further strengthen democratic culture and key institutions by assisting with the establishment of a home-grown, "*Naturally Namibian*" "Democracy Support Center"; and, we are supporting the expansion of your national anti-corruption campaign.
- US AID is supporting the Government's efforts to prepare young people to play productive roles in an increasingly competitive marketplace by assisting the Ministry of Education to improve learners' skills in English, math, science and computer; and,
- US AID is supporting the national effort to fight the AIDS epidemic and to minimize the epidemic's toll by assisting with the rapid scale-up of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care services.

I read in the newspaper that Honorable Helmut Angula mentioned at last week's Cabinet retreat that, "... development support from the international community (to Namibia) is ... declining." [*New Era*; Thursday, 3 Nov 2005, pg. 2].

While overall, development assistance from the international community *is* declining, the U.S. is not part of this trend. Development support from the United States to Namibia is, in fact, increasing.

Assistance from US AID to Namibia has more than doubled in the past four years from N\$ 70 million Namibian dollars in 2002, to N\$178 million dollars in 2005. And we expect a further increase this year to N\$ 186 million Namibian dollars.

Assistance from US AID is just a portion of the total assistance Namibia is receiving from the US Government. The US Embassy in Windhoek, the Centers for Disease Control, and the U.S. Peace Corps, provide significant -- and growing -- support in addition to that of US AID.

So clearly, the U.S. is standing solidly beside Namibia and your national effort to achieve Vision 2030.

In conclusion, US AID is pleased to be in a position to assist KAYEC and complement the strong support from KAYEC's other friends and partners including Bank Windhoek, Holcim Cement, the Ford Foundation, Misereor, and the EED.

Again, congratulations to KAYEC on the good work you are doing helping the nation's youth live-up to their great potential.

KAYEC is an organization well worth our collective and continued support.

Thank you.